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BLASTOMYCOSIS

Dear Editor: I have recently taken care of a patient suffering from blastomycosis. I am interested to know what experience other nurses have had with patients having this disease.

Massachusetts

N. G. W.

OLD COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

Dear Editor: I have the following back numbers of the JOURNAL which I am willing to send to any one who will pay the express or parcel post charges on them: Volume XVII complete; Volume XVIII, excepting August, 1918; and Volume XIX, excepting December, 1918, and July, 1919.

2125 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City

EMMA HOLMES.

A LETTER FROM A NAVY NURSE,—FROM THE U. S. S. RELIEF

March 29, 1921.

My last letter ended abruptly, as we had just reached Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and there were many things requiring additional attention, such as shore leave, restocking our pantry, etc. We are still in the bay, an important adjunct of the Atlantic Fleet. Of course, there are some pessimists who will say: "Women on shipboard with the Fleet? It can't be done!" It *can* and *is* being done successfully and if every man tries as hard and is as keen concerning Navy regulations and general deportment as are the Navy Nurses, Uncle Sam will be able to perform great deeds, for we look upon this as very serious work—not as a pleasure trip—and the dignity of our position is of great consequence to us. I believe we are being accepted as sailors. When we first set sail, bulletins were carried by word of mouth to all parts of the ship when one or more of us looked pale, but these bulletins have ceased and all the nurses are proving themselves as good sailors as can be found. Even those who felt badly at first were plucky enough to report on duty every day. But I am sure you want to go over this wonderful "Master Hospital Ship," and I invite you to inspect her with me, although you will be a silent companion and I will not be able to hear your expressions of approval and appreciation. She is 483 feet long, 64 feet beam, has 64 water-tight compartments, and is reported to be so safe that could her funnels be plugged she could go under like a submarine with perfect safety, or she could be rolled over and would always right herself. She is a beautiful ship of about 10,000 ton displacement, is painted white with a green stripe from stem to stern. This green stripe is the uniform of a military ship. Were she a Red Cross hospital ship, according to the provisions of the Geneva convention, she would have a red band instead of the green band. Painted on the side of her hull and on the side of her stack is a large red cross. Every thought has been given to the care of the sick and the practical manner in which the details have been arranged to save time and energy of those in attendance is really wonderful since, as you know, when time as well as the nurse's strength is saved, efficiency is increased. In the arrangement of the largest wards, you will find quiet room, linen room, and pantry (or diet kitchen) in one end; the dressing room and toilets at the other end. Since you so well know hospital work, you can readily appreciate the desirability of the location of these divisions. Also, in looking over our wards, you will notice that the lighting system is worthy of special comment. In the ceiling are high, soft lights, shaded so that the person lying in bed does not look into a light but it is permitted to shine on him from the back. For reading or for the convenience of the ward officer or nurse, a portable light fits into a socket

on the stanchion of the bed: one for the upper and one for the lower berths. Night lights, which in nearly every institution are high on the walls or ceiling, are placed two feet from the deck (floor) and in every instance indicate a door. Imagine the comfort of a ward which enables the patient to leave his bed and comfortably walk without stumbling over furniture and which eliminates the possibility of awakening other patients if a light is turned on. Over the toilet door is a light having a brass shade in which is cut "T-O-I-L-E-T." The red glass modifies the glare. The quiet room in each ward holds three patients and is arranged for the care of the very ill. A crib bed provides protection for a helpless case when the sea is rough. A window in the bulkhead of the quiet room gives the nurse full view of all that is going on should she be busy in the ward. The ventilation of the wards is well worked out. Aside from our high overhead space (high decks for a ship) and the window-ports opening into wide passage ways between the wards giving cross-ventilation, you will notice the many blowers and will also note that our side-ports are so made that they can be thrown open as square ports, all well screened with copper wire screening. Now, you shall go with me into the pantry; oh, yes, as "land lubber" you would call it the diet kitchen. Look at these little electric ranges! Aren't they gems, and they work beautifully, also. Look at the spacious wall table of galvanized iron extending along two bulkheads. The deep porcelain sink is in one table while over the other are dish racks and these compartments for plates, bowls, saucers and cups are so constructed that the dishes can be packed securely and are safe in a rolling sea. Over the sink are the hot, cold, and refrigerated water spigots. Yes, all pantries have refrigerators in which the coil system is used. Ice for the ice caps may be obtained from the ice machine plant, but the ice chamber is large enough for storing ice for this purpose, also. From the wards you must go with me to the hydrotherapy room, beautifully tiled and completely outfitted; then, to the endoscopic room and on to the main diet kitchen. Now, here, I will give you an ice-cold drink of fresh milk made today; or perhaps you prefer a glass of 20 per cent cream? Perhaps the ice cream is finished,—let us open the packer and see. You did not know that a cow could give forth such a mixture to a freezer three feet away, did you? Well, our mechanical bossy is a wonderful animal. But on second thought, I think we will have tea in the nurses' ward room. There is just time for this before going ashore for the big ball game. Secretary Denby is a guest and we must go early to see his arrival. The Commander-in-chief, and our own Captain are very kind to us, and when we appear in public we are welcomed by the genial Admiral in a voice that can be heard over the entire grandstand, as he assures us how delighted they are to see us and that a special point must be made of having us attend everything that is going on. The officers of the Shore Patrol gave a dance for the nurses and the women of the station at the Officers' Club and they were delighted to think that they had "put one over" the officers of the Fleet by giving the first entertainment. Your next visit will be through the remainder of the ship and we will have just about time to make that inspection before we turn northward with the Fleet.

J. B. B.

A CRITICISM.

Dear Editor: In an article entitled "Unofficial Drugs and Their Control," by Linnette Parker, appearing in your May number, certain statements are made with which I wish to take issue. In the first place, I am heartily in accord with the idea of teaching nurses the evils of patent medicines and self prescribing. For years I have followed the plan of devoting one lecture of my course to